

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00116 201442Z

46

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3776

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0116

LIMDIS

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, LU, XF, EC

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON PROPOSALS FOR EC/
ARAB LEAGUE COOPERATION

1. IN CONVERSATION LATE FEBRUARY 19 ON WASHINGTON
ENERGY CONFERENCE (WEC) (REPORTED SEPTTEL) WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER THORN, I ASKED WHAT THE EFFECTS OF THE EC
DIVISIONS IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE ON THE PROPOSED PLANS
FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EC AND THE ARAB LEAGUE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00116 201442Z

THORN REPLIED FIRMLY THAT HE STILL BELIEVED IT VERY

IMPORTANT FOR THE EC TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR COOPERATION WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE AND THAT HE IS CONVINCED THAT THERE NEED BE NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THESE TIES AND THE RESULTS OF THE WEC. THORN ADDED WITH REGRET THAT THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS RECEIVED SOME VAGUE INDICATIONS FROM US REPRESENTATIVES AT THE WEC THAT THE US MIGHT TRY TO PRESSURE THE EUROPEANS AND/OR THE ARABS INTO DROPPING THE IDEA.

2. THORN OUTLINED WHAT HE BELIEVED TO BE AN IDEAL TIME-TABLE FOR A SERIES OF INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS WHICH WOULD GUARANTY A MINIMUM OF CONFLICT BETWEEN THE WEC AND THE EC/ARAB LEAGUE COOPERATION. FIRST WOULD TAKE PLACE A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA WHICH WOULD LEAVE EVERYONE WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT THE UNGA WAS UNABLE TO RESOLVE THE REAL PROBLEMS OF THE ENERGY CRISIS. SECOND WOULD BE THE CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE PROPOSED IN THE WEC COMMUNIQUE. THIRD, AND NOT BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, WOULD BE AN EC/ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING. THE EC WAS CONVINCED THAT ANY MEETING WITH THE ARABS HAD TO BE VERY WELL PREPARED IN AVANCE SINCE THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD LEARNED IN WASHINGTON THAT LONG PREPARATION WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE A COMMON EC POSITION COULD BE REACHED. THORN ADDED THAT JOBERT HAD CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN THAT THE EC/ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING COULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE FALL OF 1974 AT THE EARLIEST.

3. THORN OBSERVED THAT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE ENERGY AND MIDDLE EAST FRONTS COULD OF COURSE HAVE A DECISIVE EFFECT ON THE CONTENTS OF AN EVENTUAL EC/ARAB LEAGUE MEETING. IF A MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IS REACHED IN GENEVA, AND IF THE CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE GOES WELL, THEN THE EC/ARAB LEAGUE MEETING WOULD BE DEVOID OF POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS.

4. THORN SAID THAT DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL HAD TOLD HIM IN WASHINGTON THAT THE HAGUE MIGHT OPPOSE DISCUSSING EC/ARAB LEAGUE COOPERATION AT THE MARCH 4 MEETING OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS. HOWEVER, THORN OPPOSED THIS SUGGESTION BECUASE HE BELIEVES THAT THE EC SHOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUXEMB 00116 201442Z

NOT GIVE THE FRENCH THE PRETEXT TO TELL "THEIR ARAB FRIENDS" THAT ONLY FRANCE IS INTERESTED IN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD SINCE THE EIGHT OTHER EUROPEANS HAD "GIVEN IN TO US PRESSURE TO CUT EC CONTACTS WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE". FARKAS

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